



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**



**Marine Ecologist**  
**Aquatic Resources Division**

**AGENCY MISSION AND CHALLENGE:**

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is to provide professional, forward-looking stewardship of our state lands, natural resources, and environment. The DNR also provides leadership in creating a sustainable future for the Public Land Trusts. The DNR manages over five million acres of state-owned land, over 1300 employees, and operates with a biennial budget of approximately \$400 million. You can find more information about the department at our [DNR Home Page](#).

**APPOINTMENT TYPE:** Permanent, full-time

**SALARY:** \$3,215 - \$4,115 per month (Range 52), plus a full benefits package

**CLOSING DATE:** February 15, 2005

**LOCATION:** Olympia, WA

**JOB PROFILE:**

There is currently one opening in the Nearshore Habitat Program for a Marine Ecologist. This position works with a team of scientists to assess the status and trends of marine and estuarine resources in Washington State.

This position provides ecological expertise in eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) monitoring in Puget Sound. Job responsibilities include:

- Work as the lead ecologist monitoring eelgrass for the Submerged Vegetation Monitoring Project (SVMP);
- Work closely with the other project team members, including the marine scientist who manages field sampling, the quantitative ecologist who leads spatial data management and statistical analysis, and other project collaborators including University of Washington scientists and private contractors;
- Participate in field work (approximately 20 days of field work per year for eelgrass monitoring, and as needed on other projects);
- Provide ecological guidance, interpretation of analyzed data, and synthesis of findings;
- Write reports and scientific papers that analyze and interpret results, and present findings to managers, scientists, and the public;
- Lead project team in periodically evaluating how the monitoring project can optimally address submerged vegetation health;
- Administer contracts or agreements;
- Assist with other Nearshore Habitat Program inventory and monitoring projects;
- Supervise temporary employees for fieldwork, data processing and data management;
- Provide scientific expertise for the Aquatic Resources Division and DNR Region staff on marine ecology and management of aquatic resources;

- Collaborate with other local, state and federal eelgrass monitoring and research efforts.

The position works under the administrative supervision of a Natural Resource Scientist 3.

The Nearshore Habitat Program inventories and monitors intertidal and shallow subtidal marine and estuarine areas for a wide range of management and scientific purposes. Information about the Nearshore Program can be found at: <http://www2.wadnr.gov/nearshore/index.asp>. The Department of Natural Resources uses nearshore habitat information to manage state-owned aquatic lands. Local, state, federal and tribal groups use the information for salmon restoration, environmental protection and planning, marine reserve selection, and resource management. The Nearshore Habitat Program is part of the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring program, a multi-agency research program that assesses the health of Puget Sound (<http://www.psat.wa.gov/Programs/PSAMP.htm> ).

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants must meet Natural Resources Scientist 2 requirements and the position's selective certification requirements:

1. A BS degree with major study in a natural science field AND
2. Three years of professional research work experience in marine/estuarine sciences or ecology.

A Masters degree will substitute for two years of work experience, and a PhD will substitute for all of the required experience as long as the major is in marine/estuarine sciences of ecology.

3. A valid drivers license.
4. Ability to spend 5 days in the field at a time.

#### **DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Research experience in methods and results associated with monitoring the status and trends of seagrass populations;
- Research experience in wetlands ecosystems, especially nearshore temperate marine and estuarine environments;
- Demonstrated ability to present scientific findings in written and oral format to scientists and managers, and publication in peer-reviewed journals;
- Familiarity with current literature describing methods and results of monitoring nearshore ecosystems;
- Demonstrated experience in field data collection, especially in nearshore environments;
- Experience in remote sensing methods for assessing status and trends of vegetated habitats, especially underwater videography data collection and post-processing;
- Ability to work collaboratively in a small workgroup;
- Skills and abilities to work in resource management organization;
- Expertise working with common desktop software, including word processing, database and spreadsheet applications;
- Familiarity with ARCINFO, ArcGIS, ArcView or other spatial data analysis software;
- Understanding of univariate and multivariate statistics;
- Experience with small boats and training in safe boating practices;
- Interest in long term environmental monitoring of the condition of Puget Sound.

This announcement is published by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The DNR is an equal opportunity employer. Persons with a disability who need assistance in the application or testing process, or those needing this announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 902-1150. DNR may be contacted using the Washington State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) by dialing 711.

**WHO MAY APPLY:**

All qualified applicants who are interested in this opportunity may apply. Candidates must follow the application process below to be considered for this position. Prior to final selection, top candidates will be asked to apply to the Natural Resource Scientist 2 register maintained by the Department of Personnel. Candidates may apply now to the register at:

<http://hr.dop.wa.gov/statejobs/bulletins/CURRENT/131845oc.htm>

If you have further questions, please contact Helen Berry at (360) 902-1052 ([helen.berry@wadnr.gov](mailto:helen.berry@wadnr.gov)).

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit:

- A letter of interest (not more than two pages) describing your qualifications as they relate to the position.
- A current resume or Washington State Job Application

Email your application materials to: [helen.berry@wadnr.gov](mailto:helen.berry@wadnr.gov) or mail them to: Helen Berry, DNR Aquatic Resources Division, PO Box 47027, Olympia, WA 98504-7027

E-MAIL responses are preferred, but hard copies will also be accepted. Please submit your package in only one form.

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